Gateway

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The ARRL Packet-Radio Newsletter

TAPR packetRADIO STATUS

The beta test version of the TAPR packetRADIO, that was to be unveiled at the ARRL Computer Networking Conference, didn't happen because it wasn't ready. TAPR could have thrown it together and taken folks money, however, it was felt that the amateur community deserved better. Packeteers have put their trust in TAPR many times and TAPR felt the only responsible thing to do was to take a little more time and do it right. This was a tough decision, but TAPR believed it was the correct thing to do.

In the next 60 days, the circuit boards are going to be revised and some tweaks will be made to the design. Hopefully, the end result will be something we can all be proud of.

Offers of help have not gone unnoticed. Andy Freeborn, NØCCZ, has a map of the US on his wall and on it are all of the call signs of people who want to participate in the beta test. A dBase listing has been compiled as well. When looking at the map, data base, and the forms prospective testers have filled out, two things become clear.

1. There are a lot of talented people who want to help.

2. Not everyone will get a radio.

Since TAPR plans to produce only 100 radios for testing, over half of the requests will have to be turned down. Beta testing should not be thought of as a way to be "first on the block" with the latest gear. Rather, it is a serious part of the final review process before turning the design over to the amateur community.

The delays are frustrating, but, according to TAPR, being honest and up front with the folks that have volunteered to be test sites has been the preferred way to go.

by Pete Eaton, WB9FLW
from *Packet Status Register*

BB VERSION 2.8 AVAILABLE

Version 2.8 of the AA4RE BB PBBS program is now available. The primary advantage of BB over other systems is its ability to handle multiple connects per port. The program uses it own multitasker; no DesqView, DoubleDos, etc is required. On the down side, BB has been optimized for speed, but requires at least 512 kbyte (and usually 640 kbyte) of RAM to be used productively.

The following features have been added to the software:

- o New port type: G8BPQ_NODE (use version 3.51 or higher of the G8BPQ program)
- o Ability to execute a DOS program from WAKEUP or keyboard
- o New search arguments for the K, R and EXPORT commands,which are similar to the L command
- o R option LATER and REJECT support
- o Support for multiple PBBS with same call sign
- o White Pages support (EW command)
- o GN command to change file names while running
- o NO_BUSY_FWD in PARMS.BB to prevent a forward cycle if the port is busy (intended for single connection HF operation)
- o $7, $8, $9 to MESSAGEs (each sounds a different tone;intended primarily for blind SYSOPs)

You can obtain BB by sending $5 US (or equivalent) to:

Frank McPherson, KB7TV
4102 E Lavender Ln
Phoenix, AZ 85044

N7IJI in Charlotte, North Carolina, is also distributing the software. Contact him via N7IJI @ N7IJI.NC.USA.NA for information on how to obtain a copy. The software can also be obtained by downloading it from the WA6RDH telephone BBS at 916-678-1535. Those with FTP Internet service or BITNET should send a note to AA4RE @ AA4RE.#NOCAL.CA.USA.NA with your TCP/IP address or BITNET address for delivery over those networks. The software should also be available from TAPR (PO Box 12925, Tucson, AZ 85732).

In addition, the following programs are available:

- o BB28DOC: N4CHV's DOC file for BB
- o BBUTL12: KL7GNG's BB utility package, which includes Log File Analyzer
- o QBBS: KL7GNG's information on N4HY's satellite tracker server

Please correspond directly with the software authors if you have questions, comments, or problems with these files.

In addition, N2MH's header parser has been tested and is recommended (it updates your HLOOKUP.BB file based on incoming messages). Contact N2MH directly (via N2MH @ N2MH.NY.USA.NA) for version 68.

from Roy Engehausen, AA4RE

PA: Pittsburgh	44.112	N3CVL
RI	44.104	W1CG
SC	44.038	N4QXV
TN	44.034	WD4NMQ
TX: central	44.076	WB5BBW
TX: Dallas	44.028	KD5QN
TX: western	44.077	KA5EJX
UT	44.040	WA7MBL
VA: not DC	44.062	WA4ONG
VT	44.054	N1CQE
WA: eastern	44.012	KA7AXD
WA: western (Puget Sound)	44.024	N1DMM
WI	44.092	W9NK
WV	44.058	KB8AOB

International Subnet Coordinators

Argentina	44.153	LU7ABF
Australia	44.136	VK2ZXQ
Austria	44.143	OE1YSS
Belgium	44.144	ON7LE
Canada	44.135	VE3GYQ
Chile	44.157	Flavio Llanos
Denmark	44.145	OZ1EUI
Ecuador	44.148	HC5K
Finland	44.139	OH2BJU
France	44.151	FC1BQ
Germany	44.130	DL4TA
Greece	44.154	SV1IW
Hong Kong	44.149	VS6EL
Hungary	44.156	HA5DI
Indonesia	44.132	YB1BG
Ireland	44.155	EI9GL
Israel	44.138	4X6OJ
Italy	44.134	I2KFX
Japan	44.129	JG1SLY/JH3XCU
Netherlands	44.137	PAØGRI
New Zealand	44.147	
Norway	44.141	LA4JL
Philippines	44.146	DU1UJ
Spain	44.133	none
Sweden	44.140	SMØRGV
Switzerland	44.142	HB9SFD
United Kingdom	44.131	G3MRX/G6KVK
Venezuela	44.152	OA4KO/YV5
Yugoslavia	44.150	YU3FK
Outer Space-AMSAT	44.193	W3IWI
Testing	44.128	none

(44.128 is reserved for testing. Do not use this address for operational networks. You may safely assume that any packets with 44.128 addresses are bogus unless they are being used for some sort of testing.)

from Phil Karn, KA9Q

NEW ARRL PACKET-RADIO BOOK DUE SOON

The Second Edition of the ARRL's popular packet-radio book, *Your Gateway to Packet Radio*, will be on sale real soon now. The second edition picks up where the first edition left off, adding coverage of all the packet-radio developments that have occurred since the first edition of the book was published two years ago.

New features include extensive coverage of the various networking schemes (NET/ROM, KA-Node, ROSE, TCP/IP, TexNet, etc), the new packet-radio satellites, and an "Applications" chapter. Another new feature is a detailed TNC features comparison chart. The extensive glossary of terms and source listing that appeared in the first edition have been expanded even further in the new edition.

Your Gateway to Packet Radio was written by your *Gateway* editor, Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU. It will be available soon from your local ham radio emporium or directly from ARRL headquarters for $12 plus $2.50 for shipping.

HOW NOT TO USE A WHITE PAGES SERVER

The story "How To Use A White Pages Server" that appeared in the November 17 issue of *Gateway* may have misled some of our readers. A "cache server" is intended for use on a local basis only, that is, information requests sent to a cache server should only be generated from users within the area served by that cache server, not from the packet-radio population in general. Information requests that can not be handled by a local cache server should be addressed to the White Pages global server, which is PBBS W9ZRX (W9ZRX.IN.USA.NA).

GATEWAY CHRISTMAS BREAK

It's that time of year again when your editor takes an extra week to get out the next issue of *Gateway*. Why? So, he can do his Christmas shopping? So, he can finish addressing his Christmas cards? So, he can deck the halls with boughs of holly? Besides those reasons, in order to insure that *Gateway* is published only 25-times-per-year, there must be a three-week lag between issues twice each year (instead of the normal two-week lag). Therefore, the next issue of the newsletter (Volume 6, Number 8) will be dated next year, specifically, January 5, 1990. Until then...

Happy Holidays from the WA1LOU family!

Laurie the XYL, Hayley the Harmonic,
& Stan the Old Man.

Happy Holidays

CONNECTICUT HIGH-SPEED PACKET-RADIO BACKBONE ON LINE

As amateurs, we have thought of the concept of 9600-baud packet radio for some time. In Connecticut, these thoughts have finally become reality with 9600-baud packet radio links now in operation. The concept was proposed to us by Mark Herson, N2MH, the EastNet Network Manager. His scheme for a multi-tier network offered relief to the crowded 220-MHz backbone frequencies of the Tri-State area (Connecticut, New Jersey and New York).

The Connecticut network was formed using the basic concept of all users access via 2-meter user nodes. The multiport systems would form three regional networks with the N1DCS site serving as Region 1, the Insurance City Repeater Club site, WA1UQC, as Region 2, and the W1HAD site as Region 3. The N1DCS system is a four-port system, while the WA1UQC and W1HAD systems are three-port systems. The three systems form a dedicated UHF backbone operating at 9600 bauds. The fourth port at N1DCS ties into the New York network, EBN. (By the time of this publication, the EBN network may have their own 9600-baud system tied in as well.) WA1UQC extends into the New England network, NEDA. This provides a four-level system with no hidden transmitters on either the 220-MHz regional network frequencies or the UHF 9600-baud high-speed backbone.

The equipment used on the 9600-baud paths are 30-watt Maxon 70-cm commercial grade 2-way radios with MFJ and PacComm TNCs equipped with PacComm 9600-baud modems. TXD is set at 20, although bench tests show the ability to run TXD as low as 5 or 10. This will be fine-tuned in time. The port diode matrixes are running at 19.2 kbaud at all key sites. This has drastically increased through-put into and out of the state. Users can now access PBBSs that they could never access before and PBBS forwarding is much quicker. In addition, user channel congestion due to PBBS forwarding has dramatically decreased.

from Caesar Rodina, N1DCS, CT Section Manager

TAPR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULED

As has been the case since the formation of the organization, the 1990 TAPR Annual Membership Meeting will again be held in Tucson, Arizona, February 24-25 at the same location as last year, ie, The Inn At The Airport, 7060 South Tucson Boulevard, which is a short distance from the airport terminal.

The Inn At The Airport again offers special rates of $49 for either one or two persons in a room. Breakfast is included in the rate and there is a late afternoon cocktail hour free to those staying at the Inn. Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-772-3847 (in Arizona, call 602-746-0271).

On Friday night, there will be the customary social session with lots of getting (re)acquainted; pizzas as usual. Following the pizza session, the would-be Indy 500 contestants will burn rubber at the Malibu Grand Prix. Since last year's western-style meal in a dining room adjacent to the conference room was so popular, it will be scheduled again this year.

Expect to see many of the manufacturers of packet-radio equipment present with displays and demonstrations. Some have already contacted TAPR for arrangements. All of the new TAPR kits will be shown and discussed.

Those wishing to be on the speaking agenda should advise the TAPR office as soon as possible. The Sunday session should be concluded near or shortly after noon for those planning afternoon departures.

from *Packet Status Register*

IP ADDRESS COORDINATOR LIST

Here's the list of regional IP address coordinators as of November 29, courtesy of Brian Kantor, WB6CYT, the global AMPRNET address coordinator. (An IP address is required in order to use the KA9Q Internet Protocol Package for amateur packet-radio TCP/IP operation. Contact your region's coordinator for an address assignment.)

LOCATION	IP ADDRESS	IP ADDRESS COORDINATOR
US Coordinators		
AK	44.022	KL7JL
AL	44.100	K4FUM
AR	44.110	WD5B
AZ	44.124	WB7TPY
CA: L.A./San Fernando Valley	44.016	WB5EKU
CA: Orange County	44.010	KA6CCF
CA: Sacramento	44.002	K6RTV
CA: San Bernardino	44.018	WC6T
CA: San Diego	44.008	WB6CYT
CA: Santa Barbara/Ventura	44.006	WB5EKU
CA: San Francisco/Silicon Valley	44.004	N6OYU
CO: Colorado Springs	44.032	N3EUA
CO: northeast	44.020	A1ØC
CO: western	44.084	K9MWM
CT	44.088	KE3Z
DC	44.096	WB6RQN
FL	44.098	Garry Paxinos
GA	44.036	KD4NC
HI: and Pacific islands	44.014	KJ9U
IA	44.050	KCØOX
IL: northern	44.072	WD9DBJ
IN	44.048	KA9FJS
KY	44.106	WB9TPG
LA: southwestern	44.108	N5KNX
MA: Boston	44.056	AE1C
MA: western	44.044	W3VH
MD	44.060	WB3FFV
ME	44.118	WA2YVL
MI: lower peninsula	44.102	KV8G
MI: upper peninsula	44.092	W9NK
MN	44.094	W9NK
MO	44.046	WBØROT
MS	44.042	WA4DDE
MT	44.082	N7GXP
NC	44.074	KA4OJN
NH	44.052	K8LT
NJ: northern	44.064	KA9Q
NJ: southern	44.065	KA2BQE
NM	44.030	WS5N
NY: Long Island	44.068	W2JUP
OH	44.070	N8EMR
OK	44.078	K5JB
OR	44.026	WA7TAS
OR: Portland	44.116	WA7NJK
PA: eastern	44.080	WA3WBU

GATEWAY CONTRIBUTIONS

Submissions for publication in *Gateway* are welcome. You may submit material via the US mail to:

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Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU
75 Kreger Drive
Wolcott, CT 06716-2702

or electronically, via CompuServe to user ID *70645,247* or via Internet to *70645.247@compuserve.com*. Via telephone, your editor can be reached on evenings and weekends at 203-879-1348 and he can switch a modem on line to receive text at 300, 1200 or 2400 bit/s. (Personal messages may be sent to your *Gateway* editor via packet radio to *WA1LOU @ N1DCS* or IP address *44.88.0.14*.)

The deadline for each issue of *Gateway* is the Saturday preceding the issue date (which is typically a Friday).

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